

AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims and add new claims as follows:

6. (amended) A supplement for a traditional-style, live auction that instantaneously integrates a remote auction audience with an onsite auction audience while leaving an auctioneer in ~~complete~~-control of the auction event, the supplement comprising:

a clerk system operable to means for
instantaneously process requesting and accepting auction bids
received from onsite auction bidders and from remote auction bidders for items being auctioned at a live auction site;
a bid system means operable to instantaneously for
broadcasting instantaneously to remote auction bidders, auction bid
information for an items being auctioned at the live auction site; for receiving
receive instantaneously auction bids from remote auction bidders
for the items being auctioned at the live auction site; and for
broadcasting instantaneously to remote auction bidders the onsite
and remote auction bids that are accepted and rejected by the clerk system supplement
means as directed by an auctioneer.

7. (amended) A supplement for a traditional-style, live auction that instantaneously integrates a remote auction audience with an onsite auction audience while leaving an auctioneer in ~~complete~~-control of the auction event, the supplement comprising:

a clerk system means operable to —for instantaneously
processrequesting and/or accepting auction bids received from onsite auction bidders and
from remote auction bidders for an items being auctioned at a live auction site;

a marquee system means foroperable to instantaneously displaying auction
bid information, including proposed and accepted auction bids, for each item being
auctioned at the live auction site; and

a bid system means operable to instantaneously; for
broadcasting instantaneously to remote auction bidders and to the
marquee system means the auction bid information for an items being auctioned at the
live auction site; for instantaneously

receiveing auction bids from remote auction bidders for the items
being auctioned at the live auction site; for

transmitting instantaneously to the marquee system means each a
remote auction bid received for the items being auctioned at the live auction; and for
broadcasting instantaneously to all remote auction bidders and to
the clerk system and marquee system means the onsite and remote auction bids that are
accepted and rejected by the clerk systemsupplement means as directed by an auctioneer.

8. (amended) A supplement for a traditional-style, live auction that
instantaneously integrates a remote auction audience with an onsite auction audience
while leaving an auctioneer in complete control of the auction event, the supplement
comprising:

an audio/video system means operable tofor transmitting instantaneously
live audio and video data from a live auction site to one or more remote auction bidders

having bidding devices operable to means for receiving the data and for to transmitting instantaneously remote auction bids for an items being auctioned at a live auction site;

a clerk system means operable to for instantaneously processrequesting and accepting auction bids received from onsite auction bidders and from remote auction bidders for items being auctioned at a live auction site;

marquee system means for instantaneously displaying auction bid information, including proposed and accepted auction bids, for items being auctioned at the live auction site; and

a bid system means operable to instantaneously: for broadcasting instantaneously to remote auction bidders and to the marquee system means the auction bid information for the items being auctioned at the live auction site; for instantaneously

receiveing auction bids from remote auction bidders for the items being auctioned at the live auction site; and, for — transmitting instantaneously to the marquee system means each remote auction bid received for items being auctioned at the live auction, and for

broadcasting instantaneously to all remote auction bidders and to the clerk system and marquee system means the onsite and remote auction bids that are accepted and rejected by the supplementclerk system means as directed by an auctioneer.

9. (amended) A supplement for a traditional-style, live auction that instantaneously integrates a remote auction audience with an onsite auction audience while leaving an auctioneer in complete control of the auction event, the supplement comprising:

an audio system means operable to for transmitting instantaneously live audio data from a live auction site to one or more remote auction bidders having a bidding device means operable to for receiving the data and for transmitting instantaneously remote auction bids for an items being auctioned at a live auction site;

a clerk system means operable to for instantaneously requesting and accepting process auction bids received from onsite auction bidders and from remote auction bidders for an items being auctioned at a live auction site;

a marquee system means operable to for instantaneously displaying auction bid information, including proposed and accepted auction bids, for each an item being auctioned at the live auction site; and

a bid system means operable to instantaneously for broadcasting instantaneously to the remote auction bidders and to the marquee system means the auction bid information for the items being auctioned at the live auction site; for instantaneously

receiveing auction bids from the remote auction bidders for the items being auctioned at the live auction site; for

transmitting instantaneously to the marquee system means each remote auction bids received for the items being auctioned at the live auction; and for broadcasting instantaneously to all at least one remote auction bidders and to the clerk system and marquee system means the onsite and remote auction bids that are accepted and rejected by the supplement clerk system means as directed by an auctioneer.

10. (amended) A supplement for a traditional-style, live auction that instantaneously integrates a remote auction audience with an onsite auction audience while leaving an auctioneer in ~~complete~~ control of the auction event, the supplement comprising:

a video system means operable to for transmitting instantaneously live video data from a live auction site to one or more remote auction bidders having bidding devices means operable to for receiving the data and for to transmitting instantaneously remote auction bids for an items being auctioned at a live auction site;

a clerk system means operable to for instantaneously requesting and accepting process auction bids received from onsite auction bidders and from remote auction bidders for the items being auctioned at a live auction site;

marquee system means operable to for instantaneously displaying auction bid information, including proposed and accepted auction bids, for each an item being auctioned at the live auction site; and

a bid system means operable to instantaneously for broadcasting instantaneously to remote auction bidders and to the marquee system means the auction bid information for the items being auctioned at the live auction site; for instantaneously

receiveing auction bids from remote auction bidders for the items being auctioned at the live auction site;

, for transmitting instantaneously to the marquee system means each remote auction bids received for the items being auctioned at the live auction; and for

broadcasting ~~instantaneously to all~~ at least one remote auction bidders and to the clerk system and marquee system ~~means~~ the onsite and remote auction bids that are accepted and rejected by the ~~supplement~~ ~~clerk system means as directed by an auctioneer.~~

11. The remote bidding supplements as in one of claims 6-10, and further comprising a data mining means system for processing and analyzing the onsite and remote auction bid history for each item auctioned at the live auction site.

12. (amended) A method for instantaneously integrating a remote auction audience with an onsite auction audience at a traditional-style, live auction while leaving an auctioneer in ~~complete~~ control of the auction event, the method comprising the steps of:

~~providing clerk system means for instantaneously processing requesting and accepting auction bids received from onsite auction bidders and from remote auction bidders for an items being auctioned at the live auction site;~~

~~providing bid system means for broadcasting instantaneously to remote auction bidders auction bid information for the items being auctioned at the live auction site;~~

~~, for receiving instantaneously auction bids from remote auction bidders for the items being auctioned at the live auction site; and for~~

accepting an auction bid; and

~~broadcasting accepted auction bids instantaneously to remote auction bidders the onsite and remote auction bids that are accepted and rejected by the clerk system means as directed by an auctioneer.~~

13. (amended) A method for instantaneously integrating a remote auction audience with an onsite auction audience at a traditional-style, live auction while leaving an auctioneer in ~~complete~~ control of the auction event, the method comprising the steps of:

~~providing clerk system means for instantaneously requesting and accepting processing~~ auction bids received from onsite auction bidders and from remote auction bidders for an items being auctioned at the live auction site;

~~providing marquee system means for instantaneously displaying on a marquee system~~ auction bid information, including proposed and accepted auction bids, for an items being auctioned at the live auction site; and

~~providing bid system means for broadcasting instantaneously to remote auction bidders and to the marquee system means~~ the auction bid information for the items being auctioned at the live auction site; for

instantaneously receiving auction bids from remote auction bidders for the items being auctioned at the live auction site; for

transmitting instantaneously to the marquee system ~~means each remote auction bids received for the items being auctioned at the live auction; and for~~ broadcasting instantaneously to all-at least one remote auction bidders and to ~~the a~~ clerk system and marquee system ~~means~~ the onsite and remote auction bids that are accepted and rejected ~~by the clerk system means as directed by an auctioneer~~.

14. (amended) A method for instantaneously integrating a remote auction audience with an onsite auction audience at a traditional-style, live auction while leaving an auctioneer in ~~complete~~ control of the auction event, comprising the steps of:

providing capturing live audio data at a live auction;
audio system means for streaming instantaneously the captured live audio data from a live auction site to one or more remote auction bidders having operating a bidding device, the bidding device being operable to means for receiving and transmit auction bids the data and for transmitting instantaneously remote auction bids for an items being auctioned at a live auction site;

providing clerk system means for instantaneously requesting and accepting processing auction bids received from onsite auction bidders and from remote auction bidders bidding devices for the items being auctioned at the live auction site; and

providing bid system means for broadcasting instantaneously to at least one remote auction bidder bidding devices the auction bid information for the items being auctioned at the live auction site; for

instantaneously receiving auction bids from transmitted from remote auction bidders the remote bidding device for the items being auctioned at the live auction site; and for

broadcasting instantaneously to all at least one remote auction bidder bidding devices and to the a clerk system means the onsite and remote auction bids that are accepted are accepted and rejected by the clerk system means as directed by an auctioneer.

15. (amended) A method for instantaneously integrating a remote auction audience with an onsite auction audience at a traditional-style, live auction while leaving an auctioneer in complete control of the auction event, the method comprising the steps of:

capturing live video data from a live auction;
providing video system means for streaming instantaneously the live video
data from a live auction site to one or more remote auction bidders having operating a
bidding device, the bidding device being operable to receive and transmit auction bids for
an item being auctioned at a live auction site; means for
receiving the data and for transmitting instantaneously remote auction bids
for items being auctioned at a live auction site;

providing clerk system means for instantaneously requesting and
accepting processing auction bids received from onsite auction bidders and from remote
auction bidding devices for an items being auctioned at the live auction site; and

providing bid system means for broadcasting instantaneously to at least
one remote remote bidding device auction bidders the auction bid information for the
items being auctioned at the live auction site; for

instantaneously receiving auction bids transmitted from the remote
bidding device remote auction bidders for the items being auctioned at the live auction
site; and for

broadcasting instantaneously to all at least one remote bidding
device remote auction bidders and to the a clerk system means the onsite and remote
auction bids that are accepted and rejected by the clerk system means as directed by an
auctioneer.

16. (amended) A The method of claim 15, further comprising the steps of: for
instantaneously integrating a remote auction audience with an onsite auction audience at
a traditional style, live auction while leaving an auctioneer in complete control of the
auction event, comprising the steps of:

capturing live audio data at the live auction; and

streaming instantaneously the captured live audio data to one or more
remote auction bidders operating a bidding device.

providing audio/video system means for streaming instantaneously live
audio and video data from a live auction site to one or more remote auction bidders
having bidding device means for receiving the data and for transmitting instantaneously
remote auction bids for items being auctioned at a live auction site;

providing clerk system means for instantaneously requesting and
accepting auction bids received from onsite auction bidders and from remote auction
bidders for items being auctioned at the live auction site; and

providing bid system means for broadcasting instantaneously to remote
auction

bidders the auction bid information for items being auctioned at the live
auction site. For instantaneously receiving auction bids from remote auction bidders for
items being auctioned at the live auction site, and for broadcasting instantaneously to all
remote auction bidders and to the clerk system means the onsite and remote auction bids
that are accepted and rejected by the clerk system means as directed by an auctioneer.

17. (amended) The method as in one of claims 1214-16, and further
comprising the steps of providing catalog system means for cataloging pre-auction sales

data on the items to be auctioned at the live auction site and ~~providing means for~~ broadcasting to the bidding devices of the remote auction bidders the pre-auction sales data.

18. (amended) The method as in ~~one of~~ claims 142-16, and further comprising the steps of ~~providing data-mining means for~~ processing and analyzing a live auction's on-site and remote auction bid history for the items auctioned at the live auction site and granting access to the auction bid history.

19. (cancelled)

20. (cancelled)

21. (cancelled)

22. (amended) The method as in one of claims 12-16, further comprising ~~wherein the step of providing bid system means includes providing a bid engine algorithm means for requesting and controlling the auction bids received from auction bidders for the items being auctioned at the live auction site.~~

23. (amended) The method as in one of claims 12-16 further comprising the ~~step of enabling a~~ ~~wherein the step of providing clerk system means includes providing a live auctioneer at the live auction site with~~ ~~to have~~ full discretionary control over the acceptance and rejection of auction bids ~~actions of the clerk system means~~.

24. (amended) The method of claim 16 wherein the step of streaming ~~instantaneously the captured live audio data~~ ~~providing audio/video system means~~ ~~includes providing a live auctioneer and enabling~~ ~~enables~~ remote bidders to instantaneously hear the live auctioneer's auction chant and the step of streaming ~~the captured video~~ enables remote bidders to view real-time video from the live auction site.

25. (amended) The method of claim 14 wherein the step of streaming instantaneously the captured live audio data ~~providing audio system means includes~~ ~~providing a live auctioneer and enabling~~ remote bidders to instantaneously hear ~~the a~~ live auctioneer's auction chant.

26. (amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the step of streaming the captured video ~~enables providing video system means includes enabling~~ remote bidders to view real-time video from the live auction site.

27. The method as in one of claims 12-16 wherein a live auctioneer is able to instantaneously accept auction bids from on-site auction bidders and from remote auction bidders.

28. (amended) The method as in one of claims 12-16 wherein the remote auction bidders are able to instantaneously follow an accepted bid sequence established by ~~the a~~ live auctioneer.

29. (amended) The method as in one of claims 12-16 wherein the remote auction bidders are able to instantaneously follow a requested bid sequence established by ~~the a~~ live auctioneer.

30. (amended) The method as in one of claims 14-16 wherein the remote auction bidder is able to transmit instantaneously a remote auction bid by activating a single button within the bidding device ~~means~~.

31. (amended) The method of claim 30 wherein the remote auction bidder is able to transmit instantaneously a remote auction bid by activating a single bid button from a selection of multiple bid buttons within the bidding device ~~means~~, each representing a different bid amount.

32. The method of claim 30 wherein the amount of the bid is visually displayed, which will be instantaneously submitted upon activation of the bid button by a remote auction bidder.

33. (amended) The method as in one of claims 12-16 wherein the remote auction bidder is able to transmit instantaneously a starting remote auction bid of any amount ~~that is consistent with the clerk system means~~.

34. The method as in one of claims 12-16 wherein the remote auction bidder is able to instantaneously monitor auction bids received in a text format.

35. (amended) The method as in one of claims 14-16 wherein the bidding device ~~means~~ includes a button that may be selected by a remote auction bidder to provide ~~an immediate~~ summary of all of the remote auction bidder's auction purchases.

36. (amended) The method as in one of claims 12-16 further comprising the step of ~~wherein the bid system means~~ instantaneously notifies-notifying a remote auction bidder(s) of the acceptance or rejection of a remote auction bidder's most recent remote auction bid.

37. (amended) The method as in one of claims 12-16 further comprising the step of ~~wherein the bid system means~~ instantaneously providing a bid-pending status to ~~notifies remote auction bidder(s) of their bid pending status when~~ the remote auction bidder ~~submittings~~ a remote auction bid ~~and of~~ in response to the ~~effective~~ transmission of ~~the bidder's the~~ remote auction bid.

38. (amended) The method as in one of claims 12-16 further comprising the step of ~~wherein the bid system means~~ instantaneously notifies-notifying a remote auction

bidder(s) of the rejection of the remote auction bidder's most recent remote auction bid due to an insufficient credit limit available to the remote auction bidder.

39. (amended) The method as in one of claims 12-16 ~~wherein the bid system means~~ further comprising the step of instantaneously notifies notifying a remote auction bidder(s) of a higher accepted bid of another auction bidder than the remote auction bidder's most recently accepted remote auction bid.

40. (amended) The method as in one of claims 12-16 further comprising the step of ~~wherein the bid system means~~ instantaneously notifies notifying the remote auction bidder of the rejection of the remote auction bidder's most recently transmitted remote auction bid when the remote auction bidder is already the highest bidding auction bidder.

41. (amended) The method as in one of claims 12-16 further comprising the step of ~~wherein the bid system means~~ enables enabling the remote auction bidder to instantaneously receive text messages from the live auction site.

42. (amended) The method of claim 13 wherein the step of displaying ~~further comprises displaying~~ at the text messages sent to remote auction bidders ~~are~~ instantaneously displayed by the ~~marquee system~~ means.

43. (amended) The method of claim 13 wherein the step of displaying ~~further comprises~~ wherein the marquee system means instantaneously displaying a sequence number and a title for each item being auctioned at the live auction site.

44. (amended) The method of claim 13 wherein the step of displaying ~~further comprises~~ marquee system means instantaneously displaying the identity of the current high auction bidder with a single tag within an associated variable field.

45. (amended) The method of claim 13 wherein the step of displaying further comprises marquee system means instantaneously displaying the current high auction bid with a single tag with an associated variable field.

46. (amended) The method as in one of claims 12-16 further comprising the step of receiving wherein text messages instantaneously received at the live auction site includes text messages sent from a remote bidder.

47. (cancelled)

48. (amended) The method as in one of claims 12-16 further comprising the step of wherein the step of providing clerk system means includes providing at least one bid increment button that when selected instantaneously signals remote auction bidders that the an auctioneer has accepted a bid at a previously auctioneer-requested bid amount and instantaneously identifies a new auctioneer-requested bid amount.

49. (amended) The method of claim 13 further comprising the step of wherein the step of providing clerk system means includes providing at least one bid increment button that when selected instantaneously signals remote auction bidders and displays at the auction site information indicating the marquee system means that the an auctioneer has accepted a bid at a previously auctioneer-requested bid amount and instantaneously identifies a new auctioneer-requested bid amount.

50. (amended) The method as in one of claims 12-16 further comprising the step of wherein the step of providing clerk system means includes providing at least one bid decrement button that when selected instantaneously signals remote auction bidders that the auctioneer has accepted a bid at a previously auctioneer-requested bid amount and instantaneously identifies identified a new auctioneer-requested bid amount.

51. (amended) The method of claim 13 further comprising the step of wherein the step of providing clerk system means includes providing at least one bid ~~decrement~~ button that when selected instantaneously signals remote auction bidders and displays at the auction site information indicating the marquee system means that the auctioneer has accepted a bid at a previously auctioneer requested bid amount and instantaneously ~~identifies-identified~~ a new auctioneer-requested bid amount.

52. (amended) The method as in one of claims 12-16 further comprising the step of wherein the clerk system means includes instantaneously modifying the ~~a~~ high bidder status from an onsite bidder to a specific remote bidder for a specific previously accepted or proposed bid.

53. (amended) The method as in one of claims 12-16 further comprising the step of wherein the clerk system means includes instantaneously modifying the ~~a~~ high bidder status from a specific remote bidder to an onsite bidder for a previously accepted or proposed bid.

54. (amended) The method as in one of claims 12-16 further comprising the step of wherein the clerk system means includes instantaneously modifying the amount of a specific previously accepted or proposed onsite or remote bid.

55. (amended) The method as in one of claims 12-16 further comprising the step of wherein the clerk system means includes instantaneously deleting a specific previously accepted or proposed onsite or remote bid.

56. (amended) The method as in one of claims 12-16 further comprising the step of wherein the clerk system means includes selecting the items being auctioned by

either selecting the next sequential item or selecting a specific item number in or out of sequence.

57. (amended) The method as in one of claims 12-16 further comprising the step of wherein the clerk system means includes identifying a specific item as sold or unsold following either a successful or unsuccessful bid sequence.

58. (amended) The method of claim 13 further comprising wherein the marquee system means instantaneously alternateing bid alert signals for sequential remote auction bids.

59. (amended) The method as in one of claims 12-16 wherein when the ~~clerk systems means identifies an item being auctioned as-is sold and the bidder submitting the high bid amount is an onsite bidder, the bid system means enables the clerk system means to instantaneously further comprising the step of acceptentering an the onsite bidder's identification, name or number.~~

60. (amended) The method of claim 24 wherein the audio/video system means further comprising the step of provides a prioritized method of degrading service upon determination of a network packet loss by disconnecting stopping the video means streaming initially, and upon continued packet loss, disconnect stopping the audio means streaming to ensure optimal auction bidding performance throughout.

61. A system that supplement for a traditional style, live auction that instantaneously integrates a remote audience with an onsite audience for a traditional-style, live auction, while leaving an auctioneer in complete control of the auction event, the system comprising:

an audio/video system means for that is operable to transmitting
instantaneously live audio and video data from a live auction site to one or more remote
auction bidders having bidding devices means for receiving the data and for transmitting
instantaneously remote auction bids for an items being auctioned at a live auction site;

a clerk system means for that is operable to instantaneously requesting and
accepting process auction bids received from onsite auction bidders and from remote
auction bidders for the items being auctioned at the live auction site; and

a bid system means for that is operable to instantaneously:

_____ broadcasting instantaneously to remote auction bidders the auction
bid information for the items being auctioned at the live auction site, for instantaneously:

_____ receiving auction bids from remote auction bidders for the items
being auctioned at the live auction site; and for

_____ broadcasting instantaneously to all remote auction bidders and to
the clerk means system the onsite and remote auction bids that are accepted and rejected
by the clerk system means as directed by an auctioneer.

62. A system that supplement for a traditional-style, live auction that
instantaneously integrates a remote auction audience with an onsite auction audience for
a traditional-style, live auction, while leaving an auctioneer in complete control of the
auction event, the system comprising:

an audio system means for that is operable to transmitting instantaneously
live audio data from a live auction site to one or more remote auction bidders having
bidding devices means for receiving the data and for transmitting instantaneously remote
auction bids for an items being auctioned at a live auction site;

a clerk system means for that is operable to instantaneously requesting and accepting process auction bids received from onsite auction bidders and from remote auction bidders for the items being auctioned at the live auction site; and

a bid system means for that is operable to instantaneously:

 broadcasting instantaneously to remote auction bidders the auction bid information for the items being auctioned at the live auction site, for:

 instantaneously receiving auction bids from remote auction bidders for the items being auctioned at the live auction site; and for

 broadcasting instantaneously to all remote auction bidders and to the clerk system the onsite and remote auction bids that are accepted and rejected by the clerk system means as directed by an auctioneer.

63. A system that supplement for a traditional-style, live auction that instantaneously integrates a remote auction audience with an onsite auction audience for a traditional-style, live auction, while leaving an auctioneer in complete control of the auction event, the system comprising:

a video system means for that is operable to transmitting instantaneously live video data from a live auction site to one or more remote auction bidders having bidding devices means that are operable to for receiving the data and for to transmitting instantaneously remote auction bids for an items being auctioned at a live auction site;

a clerk system means for that is operable to instantaneously requesting and accepting process auction bids received from onsite auction bidders and from remote auction bidders for the items being auctioned at the live auction site; and

a bid system means for that is operable to instantaneously:

_____ broadcasting instantaneously to remote auction bidders the auction bid information for the item(s) being auctioned at the live auction site; for _____ instantaneously receiving auction bids from remote auction bidders for the item(s) being auctioned at the live auction site; and for _____ broadcasting instantaneously to all remote auction bidders and to the clerk system the onsite and remote auction bids that are accepted and rejected ~~by the clerk system means as directed by an auctioneer.~~

64. (amended) The method of claim 13 wherein the marquee system ~~means~~ instantaneously displays the identity of the remote auction bidder whose remote auction bid has been accepted.

65. The method of claim 31 wherein the amount of the bid is visually displayed, which will be instantaneously submitted upon activation of the bid button by a remote auction bidder.

66. The method of claim 23 wherein a live auctioneer is able to instantaneously accept auction bids from on-site auction bidders and from remote auction bidders.

67. The method of claim 23 wherein the remote auction bidders are able to instantaneously follow an accepted bid sequence established by the live auctioneer.

68. The method of claim 23 wherein the remote auction bidders are able to instantaneously follow a requested bid sequence established by the live auctioneer.

69. (new) The remote bidding system of claim 11, wherein the remote auction bidders can access the data mining system to review the history.

70. (new) The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of a remote auction bidder accessing the data mining system to review the history.

71. (new) The remote bidding supplement of claim 6, wherein the bid system can select from multiple bidding engines.

72. (new) The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of providing multiple bidding engines that can be selected by an auctioneer prior to the start of the live auction.

73. (new) The method of claim 14 further comprising the step of degrading service upon determination of network packet loss by limiting the audio streaming initially, and upon continued packet loss, stopping the audio streaming to ensure optimal auction bidding performance throughout.

74. (new) The supplement of claim 9, wherein the audio capabilities are integrated into the bidding device.